

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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O 201747Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5582

S E C R E T ATHENS 6905

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJ: INITIAL CALL ON MAVROS

REF A. ATHENS 6904 B. CJUSMAG ATHENS 181525Z SEP 74

FOR THE SECRETARY

1. I CALLED ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FONMIN GEORGE MAVROS TODAY (SEPT 20) AT 1:00 P.M.

2. AFTER EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES, I TOLD MAVROS THAT YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR MEETING WITH HIM IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK AND SAID THAT I WOULD BE GLAD TO ADVISE YOU IN ADVANCE OF ANY PARTICULAR SUBJECTS HE INTENDED TO COVER. MAVROS REPLIED THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE QUESTION OF CERTAIN DEFENSE SUPPLIES NEEDED BY GREECE OVER AND ABOVE THEIR NORMAL REQUIREMENTS, INDICATING THAT HE HAD IN MIND HELLENIC NAVY REQUEST (REF B) FOR PATROL GUNBOATS, INSERVICE DESTROYERS AND DIESEL SUBMARINES. BEYOND THIS SPECIFIC REQUEST HE WOULD WISH TO EXPLORE WITH YOU THE CURRENT STATE OF US/GREEK RELATIONS AND OBTAIN YOUR VIEWS ON WAYS TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. REGARDING GREECE'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES, MAVROS SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED BY THE IMBALANCE PRESENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH MILITARY STRENGTH. HE BELIEVED THAT GREECE NEEDED TO

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STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY IF IT WERE TO

NEGOTIATE WITH THE TURKS WITH ANY DEGREE OF CREDIBILITY.

3. MAVROS WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HIS PROGRAM IN THE U.S. HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK FROM SEPT 22 THROUGH 24. HE WILL GO TO STRASBOURG ON SEPT 25 TO DELIVER A SPEECH BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND RETURN TO NEW YORK ON SEPT 28. AT THAT TIME HE PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND WILL ADDRESS THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ON OCTOBER 1. HE MAY ALSO APPEAR ON ABC'S "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" DURING THIS PERIOD.

4. I THANKED MOVROS FOR THIS INFORMATION AND SAID THAT THE U.S. WISHED TO BE HELPFUL IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO CYPRUS CONFLICT WHICH ALL THE PARTIES COULD LIVE WITH. IF THE SETTLEMENT LEFT ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES AGGRIEVED, IT COULD NOT ENDURE. SPEAKING FRANKLY, I SAID THAT THE FONMIN SHOULD REALIZE WHAT HE SAID AND DID IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON OUR ABILITY TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO AN EVENTUAL CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IF MAVROS USED HIS APPEARANCES ON AMERICAN TELEVISION OR AT THE PRESS CLUB TO ATTACK U.S. POLICY AND TO CRITICIZE MY GOVERNMENT'S LEADERSHIP, IT WOULD SEVERELY IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO BE HELPFUL. THE SAME THING WAS TRUE, I SAID, OF A PERPETUATION OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN GREECE AND OF STATEMENTS BY GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY AND MOTIVES. I URGED HIM TO DO NOTHING IN THE U.S. THAT WOULD MAKE OUR JOB HARDER.

5. MAVROS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MY REMARKS AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO GO TO THE U.S. TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT OR EVEN, HE ADDED, TO ATTACK TURKEY. HE WANTED TO USE THE OCCASION TO PRESENT THE GREEK CASE ON CYPUS AS PERSUASIVELY AS POSSIBLE. HE INTENDED TO MINIMIZE DIFFERENCES WITH THE U.S. BECAUSE HE, LIKE THE PRIME MINISTER, BELIEVED THAT GREECE NEEDED THE U.S. THIS WAS TRUE NOT ONLY OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BUT MORE GENERALLY. GREECE WAS A MEMBER OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. IT HAD SPECIAL TIES WITH THE U.S. WHICH IT INTENDED TO PRESERVE. GREECE'S TRADITIONS, ITS RECENT HISTORY AND ITS GEOGRAPHY DID NOT

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PERMIT IT TO BE NON-ALIGNED. THIS WAS A POINT THAT MAVROS TRIED TO EMPHASIZE IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE GREEK PRESS ASSOCIATION YESTERDAY. HE WOULD MAKE THE SAME POINT IN THE U.S.

6. I THANKED MAVROS FOR HIS COMMENTS AND SAID THAT IF HE TOOK THIS APPROACH WHEN HE WAS IN THE U.S. IT WOULD FACILITATE OUR EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL TO GREECE.

7. COMMENT: THIS WAS MY FIRST MEETING WITH MAVROS,
AT WHICH I PRESENTED COPIES OF MY CREDENTIALS, AND HAD
BEEN BILLED AS A SHORT, NON-SUBSTANTIVE CALL. HOWEVER,
IT LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR AND WAS SUBSTANTIVE THROUGHOUT.
HE RAMBLED A LOT AND IS NOT AN EASY MAN TO FOLLOW, BUT
I WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS WILLINGNESS TO TALK FRANKLY AND
WITHOUT HEAT ABOUT SOME TROUBLESOME POINTS--ALTHOUGH I
AM FRANKLY SKEPTICAL THAT HE WILL MATCH HIS PUBLIC
UTTERANCES IN THE U.S. TO ALL OF HIS PRIVATE INDICATIONS
TO ME. HE WILL BE A TRYING BUT IMPORTANT INTERLOCUTOR
FOR YOU AT THIS STAGE. KUBISCH

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